



HR 3998 -- America's Historical and Natural Resources Legacy Study Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 3998 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) on October 30, 2007. The House Resources Committee held a mark-up on November 7, 2007 and reported the bill by voice vote.

Summary

HR 3998 combines ten bills that require special resource studies by the Secretary of the Interior in order to determine whether certain areas are eligible to be included in a variety of historic sites, trails, and the National Park Service system (descriptions below).

The Secretary is required to submit the report to Congress within three years along with any recommendations. According to the Congressional Budget Office, each study would cost approximately \$300,000. In accordance with current law, the studies should include:

- the rarity and integrity of the resources;
- the threats to those resources;
- similar resources are already protected in the National Park System or in other public or private ownership;
- the public use potential;
- the interpretive and educational potential;
- costs associated with acquisition, development and operation;
- the socioeconomic impacts of any designation;
- the level of local and general public support; and
- whether the area is of appropriate configuration to ensure long-term resource protection and visitor use

The resource studies required by HR 3998 are:

Harry S Truman Birthplace Study Act – This provision would require the study to consider whether the Harry S. Truman Birthplace Historic Site (Lamar, Missouri) should be part of the National Park System.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR 3265, which was introduced by Representative Ike Skelton (D-MO).*

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Extension Study Act – This provision would require a study to include sites known as the “Eastern Legacy” as part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Sites included are in Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR3613, which was introduced by Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO).*

Battle of Matewan Study Act – This provision would require a study on designating the Matewan Historic District (West Virginia) as a unit of the National Park Service system.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR 3821, which was introduced by Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV).*

Battle of Camden Study Act – This provision would require a study on designating the Battle of Camden and Historic Camden (South Carolina) as units of the National Park System.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR 1674, which was introduced by Representative John Spratt (D-SC).*

Mississippi River Study Act – This provision would require a study to evaluate the areas along the route of the Mississippi River in the counties contiguous to the river from its headwaters in the State of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The study would evaluate a range of alternatives for protecting and interpreting the resources along the route of the Mississippi River and the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of the route.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR 2482, which was introduced by Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN).*

Fort San Geronimo Study Act – This provision would require a study to determine the feasibility of including Fort San Geronimo (Puerto Rico) in the San Juan National Historic Site.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR 1545, which was introduced by Resident Commissioner Luis Fortuno (R-PR).*

Wolf House Study Act – This provision would require a study to determine feasibility of designating the Wolf House (Norfolk, AR) as a unit of the National Park System.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR 442, which was introduced by Representative Marion Berry (D-AR). The National Park Service has previously testified that the Wolf House is more appropriately suited for inclusion in the Arkansas State Park System.*

Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act – This provision would require a study to determine the feasibility of designating all or a portions of the Rim of the Valley Corridor (California) as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

**Note: This provision is identical to HR 442, which was introduced by Representative Marion Berry (D-AR).*

Butterfield Overland Trail Study Act – This provision would require a study on the “Ox-Bow Route” of the Butterfield Overland Train to determine a range of alternatives for protecting and interpreting the resources of the trail area, including alternatives for potential addition of the trail area to the National Trails System.

**Note: This provision is identical to H.R. 1266, which was introduced by Representative John Boozman (R-AR).*

Cost

According to the Congressional Budget Office, “assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$3 million over the 2008-2010 period. Enacting the bill would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.”

Staff Contact

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